

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13 and 15-26 are pending in the present application. The present Amendment amends Claims 1, 22 and 23, and adds Claims 24-26. No new matter is introduced.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 4-9, 11 and 15-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Iwata (U.S. Patent No. 6,697,847) in view of Itoh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,330,611, herein “Itoh”); Claims 2, 13 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Iwata in view of Itoh and Washino (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,157); and Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Iwata in view of Itoh and Kimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,097).

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1, 4-9, 11 and 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Iwata and Itoh, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites,

An image forming apparatus that includes service modules for performing system side processes on image formation, wherein applications can be added to the image forming apparatus separately from the service modules, the image forming apparatus comprising:

an application launch part configured to access launch selection information, the launch selection information indicating at least a location of an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications, and configured to launch the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device according to the accessed launch selection information; and

a part configured to display a setting screen that sets the launch selection information on a display part of the image forming apparatus, and configured to store information input from the setting screen as the launch selection information,

wherein the service modules are stored in a memory distinct from the auxiliary storage device, and

¹ Support for the additions and amendments to the claims can be found, at least, in page 20, lines 13-24, page 31, line 24 to page 32, line 2, page 21, lines 2-4, and Figure 2 and 4.

wherein the one or more applications are installed in the auxiliary storage device.

Claim 22 recites similar features and Claim 23 recites at least the above noted features.

Iwata describes an information processing system such as a copier which includes a copy module, a facsimile module and a printer module. Further, Iwata describes in Figures 46-48 and corresponding disclosure that “printer software” can be downloaded to a printer Pr from a server Sv via a computer C in response to request by the computer C.

However, Iwata does not describe or suggest an application launch part configured to access launch selection information, the launch selection information indicating at least a location of an auxiliary storage device that stores one or more applications, and configured to launch the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device according to the accessed launch selection information, where the one or more applications are installed in the auxiliary storage device.

Applicants note that the term install denotes that the applications are not only stored in the auxiliary storage device but are also prepared for use, that is prepared for execution by the image forming apparatus.

As was noted in paragraph 2, line 6 of the Advisory Action mailed September 18, 2009, in Iwata, the software is installed in the printer. Thus, Iwata does not describe or suggest that the application is installed in an auxiliary storage device other than the printer.

The outstanding Action asserts in the Advisory Action that the “agent” of Figures 44 and 47 of Iwata describes the above noted “application launch part” recited in Claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion.

Specifically, the “agent” of Figures 44 and 47 merely enables the printer to download software from the server (asserted as corresponding to the auxiliary storage device), nothing in Iwata describes or suggests that the one or more applications launched from the auxiliary storage device are also *installed* in the auxiliary storage device.

In other words, in Iwata the “printer software” is not installed on the server, it is merely sent from the server to the printer where the software is installed at the printer.

Nevertheless, the outstanding Action cites Itoh as curing the deficiencies of Iwata with regard to the claimed invention.

Itoh describes a device that retrieves data on a network and updates data on another network resource. Further, Itoh describes that a client (CURL1) can select a server (SURL 1) from a list of servers from which to receive updates.

However, Itoh does not describe or suggest an application launch part configured to launch the one or more applications from the auxiliary storage device according to the accessed launch selection information, where the one or more applications are installed in the auxiliary storage device, as is recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, and similarly Claims 22, and claims depending respectfully therefrom, patentably distinguish over Iwata and Itoh considered individually or in any combination.

Furthermore, with regard to Claim 23, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim patentably distinguishes over Iwata, Itoh and Washino considered individually or in combination for at least the reasons noted above with regard to Claim 1 (which also apply to Claim 23).

In addition, with regard to newly added Claims 24-26, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims also patentably distinguish over Iwata, Itoh and Washino considered individually or in combination for reasons in addition to the reasons noted above with regard to Claims 1, 22 and 23.

Specifically, Iwata, Itoh and Washino considered individually or in combination never describe or suggest that the application launch part launches the one or more applications

from the auxiliary storage device by issuing an execution command which is stored in the auxiliary storage device.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13 and 15-26 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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